

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A print server which is connected through a network to an external apparatus for outputting image data mixedly including BW (black-and-white) and color data, a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW image data, and a color image formation apparatus for outputting color image data, said print server comprising:

determination means for determining one of ~~[[said]]~~ the BW image formation apparatus and ~~[[said]]~~ the color image formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a base;

judgment means for reading the image data mixedly including the BW and color data output from ~~[[said]]~~ the external apparatus for each page and judging whether the page is a color page or a BW page;

transmission means for ~~previously~~ transmitting ~~the discriminated a~~ previously judged color page to ~~[[said]]~~ the color image formation apparatus to output the color page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is ~~[[said]]~~ the BW image formation apparatus, and ~~previously~~ for transmitting ~~the discriminated a~~ previously judged BW page to ~~[[said]]~~ the BW image formation apparatus to output the BW page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is ~~[[said]]~~ the color image formation apparatus; and

instruction means for inserting ~~[[the]]~~ one of the BW page and the color page, ~~[[set]]~~ sent through the inserter and previously ~~[[output]]~~ outputted, in the base

determined by said determination means, and simultaneously instructing to output the other of the BW page and the color page.

Q1 Claim 2 (currently amended): A print server according to Claim 1, [[wherein]] further comprising another judgment means for judging whether or not a storage device for spooling the BW page is installed in [[said]] the BW image formation apparatus, or judging whether or not a storage device for spooling the color page is installed in [[said]] the color image formation apparatus, is provided.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A print server according to Claim 2, wherein the BW page is transmitted to [[said]] the BW image formation apparatus in a case where the storage device is installed in [[said]] the BW image formation apparatus, or the color page is transmitted to [[said]] the color image formation apparatus in a case where the storage device is installed in [[said]] the color image formation apparatus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A print server according to Claim 2, wherein display instruction means for displaying the page on a display screen of [[said]] the BW image formation apparatus and a display screen of [[said]] the external apparatus on the basis of an installation state of [[said]] the BW image formation apparatus or displaying the page on a display screen of [[said]] the color image formation apparatus and the display screen of [[said]] the external apparatus on the basis of an installation state of [[said]] the color image formation apparatus, is provided.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A print server according to Claim 4, wherein the installation state [[means]] is an installation state of the storage device.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image formation system comprising:

an external apparatus for outputting image data mixedly including BW and color data;

a BW image formation apparatus for outputting BW image data;

a color image formation apparatus for outputting color image data;

and

Q a print server connected through a network to said external apparatus, said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, and said print server comprising~~[[,]]~~:

determination means for determining one of said BW image formation apparatus and said color image formation apparatus, which has an inserter having a sheet path not passing through a fixing unit, as a base~~[[,]]~~;

judgment means for reading the image data mixedly including the BW and color data output from said external apparatus for each page and judging whether the page is a color page or a BW page~~[[,]]~~;

transmission means for ~~previously~~ transmitting the ~~discriminated~~ a previously judged color page to said color image formation apparatus to output the color page in a case where the base, determined by said determination means, is said BW image formation apparatus, and ~~previously~~ transmitting the ~~discriminated~~ a previously judged BW page to said BW image formation apparatus to output the BW page

in a case where the base₁ determined by said determination means₁ is said color image formation apparatus₁; and

instruction means for inserting the one of the BW page and the color page, ₁ sent through the inserter and previously ₁ outputted, in the base determined by said determination means, and simultaneously instructing to output the other of the BW page and the color page.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image formation system ~~which has~~ comprising:

Q. an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data₁ different from the first-kind image data₁ to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, ~~said system~~ comprising: and

control means for controlling to transmit the first-kind image data to ₁ the first image formation apparatus and to transmit the second-kind image data to ₁ the second image formation apparatus from the series of image data,

wherein said control means makes transmission timing of the first-kind image data to ₁ the first image formation apparatus ₁ different from transmission timing of the second-kind image data to ₁ the second image formation apparatus in accordance with a function of ₁ the first image formation apparatus or a function of ₁ the second image formation apparatus and in accordance with which of the first image formation apparatus and the second image formation apparatus have a first

function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet on which image formation processing does not have to be performed.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 7, wherein the function includes a [[first]] second function to perform spooling processing.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Q1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 9, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the first-kind image data to [[said]] the first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the second-kind image data to [[said]] the second image formation apparatus in accordance with the fact that [[said]] the first image formation apparatus has the [[second]] first function.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 7, wherein [[the]] said information processing apparatus can input image data from a remote image processing apparatus, said control means includes display control means for selectively displaying message information to an operator on [[the]] said image processing apparatus, [[said]] the first image formation apparatus and [[said]] the second image formation apparatus, and said control means determines that the information has to be displayed on which of [[the]] said image processing apparatus, [[said]] the first image formation apparatus and [[said]] the second image formation apparatus in accordance with the

function of [[said]] the first image formation apparatus or the function of [[said]] the second image formation apparatus.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 11, wherein said [[controls]] control means varies ~~contents~~ the content of the information in accordance with the function of [[said]] the first image formation apparatus or the function of [[said]] the second image formation apparatus.

Claim 13 (original): A system according to Claim 7, wherein the first-kind image data represents a BW image and the second-kind image data represents a color image.

Claim 14 (original): A system according to Claim 8, wherein the first-kind image data represents a photograph image and the second-kind image data represents a character image.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A control method [[of]] for an image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data, different from the first-kind image data, to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, said method comprising:

a control step₁ of controlling to transmit the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus and to transmit the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus from the series of image data,

wherein transmission timing of the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus is made ~~[[differ]]~~ different from transmission timing of the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus in said control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the second image formation apparatus and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet to which image formation processing does not have to be performed.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program to cause an image formation system to execute ~~the following steps~~ a control method, the image formation system having an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting a series of image data composed of plural pages containing first-kind image data and second-kind image data₁ different from the first-kind image data₂ to a first image formation apparatus and a second image formation apparatus in the page unit, said ~~program~~ method comprising:

a control step₁ of controlling to transmit the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus and to transmit the second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus from the series of image data,

wherein transmission timing of the first-kind image data to the first image formation apparatus is made ~~[[differ]]~~ different from transmission timing of the

second-kind image data to the second image formation apparatus in the control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the second image formation apparatus and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and said second image formation apparatus have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet to which image formation processing does not have to be performed.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, comprising:

Q. control means for controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and to transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than said first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages,

wherein said control means makes transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus ~~[[differ]]~~ different from transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with a function of said first image formation apparatus or a function of the other image formation apparatuses and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A system according to Claim 17, wherein the function includes a ~~[[first]]~~ second function to perform spooling processing.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A system according to Claim ~~[[19]]~~ 17, wherein said control means delays the transmission timing of the image data to said first image formation apparatus from the transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in accordance with the fact that said first image formation apparatus has the ~~second~~ first function.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A control method of an image formation system which has an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, comprising:

Q a control step₂ of controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and to transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than the first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages,

wherein transmission timing of the image data to the first image formation apparatus is made ~~[[differ]]~~ different from transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in said control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the other image formation apparatuses and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A storage medium which stores a computer-readable program to cause an image formation system to execute a control method following steps, the image formation system having an information processing apparatus capable of selectively transmitting image data to plural image formation apparatuses, said program method comprising:

a control step₁ of controlling to transmit a part of pages to a first image formation apparatus and to transmit remaining pages to image formation apparatuses other than the first image formation apparatus from a series of image data composed of plural pages,

Q wherein transmission timing of the image data to the first image formation apparatus is made different from transmission timing of the image data to the other image formation apparatuses in said control step in accordance with a function of the first image formation apparatus or a function of the other image formation apparatuses and in accordance with which of said first image formation apparatus and the other image formation apparatuses have a first function to perform processing for feeding a previously image formed sheet, to which image formation processing has not to be performed.